

Abstract

A method and system is presented for storing multiple tracks of music in a single structured storage file having multiple layers of organization. The top layer contains links to separate "folders" for each track, as well information associated with the collection of tracks as a whole. Inside each track folder is the digital data defining the music track, as well as information concerning that track. Audio/video information associated with the collection can be stored in the root file, while audio/video information associated with the track is stored in the track folder. A file header in the root directory contains a vendor ID and a product ID, which allows licensing software to examine the file and uniquely associate it with a particular license. Preview tracks contained in the track folders can be played if the no license exists. To prevent tampering with the product or vendor ID, the header file is encrypted with DES encryption using an encryption key common to all files. The actual music contained in each track is encrypted with an encryption key unique to that track.